



STATE OF INDIANA

ERIC J. HOLCOMB, Governor

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ANALYSIS

The public policy of the APRA states that "(p)roviding persons with information is an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of public officials and employees, whose duty it is to provide the information." *See Indiana Code § 5-14-3-1*. The Wabash County Coroner is a public agency for the purposes of the APRA. *See Indiana Code § 5-14-3-2(n)*. Accordingly, any person has the right to inspect and copy The Coroner's disclosable public records during regular business hours unless the records are protected from disclosure as confidential or otherwise exempt under the APRA. *See Indiana Code § 5-14-3-3(a)*.

It appears as if the prior office-holder violated the APRA by neglecting to provide the Complainant his requested records in a reasonable time. While the current office-holder is not instantly accountable, the Wabash Valley Coroner's office is in violation of the statute based on the prior public official's actions. It is my sincere hope the records have been produced by the prior Coroner in full satisfaction of the Complainant's request.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is the Opinion of the Public Access Counselor the Wabash County Coroner's Office has violated the APRA.

Luke H. Britt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LHB", written over a white background.

Public Access Counselor

Cc: Ms. Suzie Lewis, Coroner